

Tuesday, February 17, 2015



Kingston Water Department Winter Emergency Update

1. The break occurred at about 11 am on Monday, February 16th. It appeared to be a sudden and catastrophic event that caused the Treatment Plant to lose pressure and stop producing potable water. Due to the nature of the event, we believe that the break is located along a section of our transmission main that runs between the Plant in Zena and our Binnewater Reservoir in the Town on Ulster.
2. Personnel began to immediately search for the break. But since most of the maintenance staff was in the midst of repairing a break on Lindsley Avenue, we were not able to mobilize all of our crews until later in the afternoon.
3. These transmission mains run along the Sawkill Creek. Some sections are not readily accessible and must be inspected on foot. We continue to search for the exact location of the leak. At first light, crews will walk the line and, once located, will begin the repairs.
4. Staff was able to get the Treatment Plant back on line and we are once again producing water at a reduced rate. This has helped to slow the decline in the level of our Binnewater Reservoir.
5. Throughout this period, the UV Plant at that Binnewater Reservoir has been operational and THE WATER ENTERING THE CITY OF KINGSTON MEETS ALL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND IS SAFE TO DRINK. THIS INCLUDES THE GOLDEN HILL WATER SYSTEM.
6. For the handful of KWD customers in the Town of Kingston, after consultation with the Ulster County Health Department, we are advising you to boil your water before consuming it as a precautionary measure. You will be advised when it is safe to resume using your water for cooking and drinking.
7. For the duration of the emergency, the Town of Ulster Water District has voluntarily disconnected from our system and will be supplying their customers in that Water District from their own treatment system. There are no restrictions in that system.
8. We continue to ask the residents of the City of Kingston to do whatever they can to conserve water until this emergency is over.

In advance we thank you for your cooperation and patience. We will continue to provide updates every 4 hours, beginning at 8am on Tuesday, February 17th or as the situation changes.